



Monday, Jan. 31		SRC in the News
10 a.m.	Senate Labor, Commerce, R&D Committee: Hearing on SB 5069-Family Leave Tax, SHR 4	Democrats push agenda backlog (Olympian, 1/24/2005): (Sen. Bill) Finkbeiner and House Republican Leader Bruce Chandler of Granger said last week that they still hope to find bipartisan agreements on legislation. "I don't think the state is going to accept solutions that are put together by only one party," Finkbeiner said, adding that it was still too early to say where consensus might be forged. (http://www.theolympian.com/home/news/20050124/)
Noon	Pro Forma Session	
3:30 p.m.	Senate Early Learning, K-12 and Higher Ed Committee: Executive session on K-12 finance study bills (SB 5441/5191), SHR 1 (TVW)	
Tuesday, Feb. 1		SRC Budget Tidbit
7:15 a.m.	Tuesday Morning Fellowship: JAC ABC	Budget Brief #4: Gregoire Medicaid Policies: The 2003 Legislature approved a package of reforms to prevent Medicaid fraud. The reforms were based on a 2002 DSHS study that found 7 percent of reviewed recipients were ineligible and more than 33 percent of individuals' eligibility could not be verified. One of the legislative reforms enacted was to require a more frequent verification of eligibility – every six months, rather than every 12. Gov. Gregoire recently repealed the more frequent eligibility verification. Her office stated people “drop off not because they’re not eligible <u>but because they can’t jump the hurdles.</u> ” But a September 2004 DSHS study which reviewed why people did not return their re-certification forms refutes the Governor’s assertion. While 14 percent cited their income as too high, this in fact was low. <u>DSHS found 35 percent of individuals who failed to return forms were over the income limit.</u> Repealing more frequent eligibility verification will cost state taxpayers <u>\$31 million.</u> The Bottom Line More frequent eligibility review has purged a large number of ineligible people off taxpayer rolls. Is repealing this policy a wise use of taxpayer dollars?
10 a.m.	Senate Labor, Commerce, R&D Committee: Hearing on fireworks tax (SB 5153), SHR 4	
Noon	Pro Forma Session Washington Policy Center 2005 Legislative Briefing Lunch: SHR 2	
1 p.m.	House & Senate Republican Media Availability Senate Transportation Committee: Work session on local transportation needs	
3:30 p.m.	Senate Water, Energy & Environment Committee: Hearing on radioactive waste issues, SHR 4 (TVW)	
Wednesday, Feb. 2: Groundhog Day & Dairy Day		
8 a.m.	Senate Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Ed Committee: Exec. session on simple majority Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee: Hearing on cosmetic surgery tax, SHR 4	
10 a.m.	Senate Session, Caucus & Rules: Apprenticeship bill scheduled for vote.	
Noon	Farm Bureau Legislative Luncheon: Sen. Zarelli receives Legislator of the Year	
Thursday, Feb. 3		
8 a.m.	Senate Labor, Commerce, R&D Committee: Hearing on labor bills, including workers’ comp reform (SB 5466), SHR 4	
10 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Senate Judiciary Committee: Hearing on John’s Law (SB 5417) to restrict access to vehicles for people arrested for alcohol offenses, SHR 1Gov. Gregoire Press Conference on Economic Development, Gov. Conference Rm.	
Noon	Pro Forma Session	
1:30 p.m.	Senate Transportation Committee: Work session on Tacoma Narrows Bridge and Public Private Initiatives.	
3:30 p.m.	Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Committee: Hearing on animal trapping and other wildlife issues, SHR 2 (TVW)	
Friday, Feb. 4: Rossi Case in Chelan County Superior Ct.		For more budget tidbits, visit: http://www.src.wa.gov
10 a.m.	Possible Senate Session	

* Courtesy of Senate Republican Caucus * To submit an item or correction or to unsubscribe, please contact Communications Director Janelle Guthrie at 360-786-7516 or guthrie_ja@leg.wa.gov